



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

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A Rash of Search and Rescues Occur in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park rangers were involved in three separate search and rescue operations during the past 24 hours. The first incident occurred at approximately 2 pm Wednesday, July 18 and the final rescue concluded at about 2:30 pm Thursday, July 19th.

Park rangers began the first rescue when they received a report that an Exum Mountain Guide, Rick Wyatt, was experiencing symptoms of dizziness and difficulty in walking. A helicopter was used to evacuate Wyatt from the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton. Wyatt was flown to Lupine Meadows where his wife met the rescue team and drove him to St. John's Medical Center. Wyatt spent the night at the hospital under medical care and observation.

A second report from Exum guides came at 7 PM Wednesday evening. Holly Beck, a 27-year-old resident of Seattle, Washington, rappelled off the end of her rope and fell about 10-20 feet sustaining severe lacerations, puncture wounds and a possible broken arm. Beck was descending the Owen Spalding route and was at the upper saddle when the accident occurred. Six park rangers and the park's contract helicopter flew to the scene. One ranger was placed on the upper saddle using advanced helicopter techniques. A short haul to the Lower Saddle was attempted. A severe thunderstorm with heavy winds, sleet and hail prevented the short haul rescue. Beck was assisted to the Lower Saddle where she spent the night and was flown directly to St. John's Medical Center this morning at 8 am.

The final rescue took place today at 11 am. An off duty park ranger reported that Peter Halpin, a 25 year old employee of Leeks Marina, had fallen 50 feet on the east face of Teewinot while climbing off route. Halpin sustained severe lacerations and contusions to various parts of his body. Three park rangers flew to the scene and short hauled him to Lupine Meadows for transport to St. John's.

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